LUCIUS GRIFFIS
IN THE
CIVIL WAR

The Exploits of a Private from E Company,
47th Regiment North Carolina Infantry
1861–1865

A composite of excerpts from
The History of Our Griffis Family in America
– a privately distributed family history.

by Brian Griffis
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INTRODUCION

A brief biographical sketch of Lucius's family before the Civil War.

When Allen Griffis (1757-1814) returned from the Revolutionary War to his native Virginia, he married Sarah [Gawf?] and had four children. In 1787, he moved his family to Wake County, North Carolina. Sarah died around 1791 and Allen was soon remarried to Peggy Marshall. Allen and Peggy had five children together, the oldest of whom was Joshua Griffis, born in 1792.

In 1814, Joshua married his cousin Rebecca Griffis. They lived on a small farm in St. Marys Township, just outside of Raleigh; they had four children before Joshua suddenly died at age twenty-seven in 1819. Their youngest child was Caroline, born about 1818.

As a young woman, Caroline had relations with a man named Zack Smith, and a son was born out of wedlock. The boy, given the name Lucius, was born in August 1839 and raised by his mother and grandmother Rebecca.[1] No

[1] August 1839 is taken from the 1900 census and is consistent with his army records. It conflicts with the date shown on his death certificate of November 1834. The acting informant for Lucius's

evidence has been found to suggest that Zack Smith had any part in Lucius's upbringing; Lucius therefore assumed the Griffis surname rather than Smith.

Caroline and Lucius remained in Rebecca's home until Caroline married Anderson Nicholson in 1848. At that time, Caroline and Lucius moved into Anderson's house on New Bern Avenue in Raleigh.

Before Lucius moved to Raleigh, he likely had little, if any, experience in a schoolroom. Lucius was nine years old when he moved into the city, and the nearest school was located in Moore Square, just two blocks south of New Bern Avenue.[2] Due to its proximity, it's almost certain that Lucius had some schooling, although his attendance was probably infrequent. The public schools in Raleigh, which opened when Lucius was a toddler, weren't yet divided into grades, and only the basic three Rs were taught.[3]

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death certificate was the undertaker, who misspelled Lucius's name and did not know the names of his parents. The information shown in his army records and the 1900 census was provided by Lucius personally, giving it more credibility.

[2] Battle, p. 72.

[3] Amis, pp. 97–98.

Lucius learned how to grow tobacco, and in the mid- to late-1850s, he set out on his own to get hired as a full-time farmhand. He went a little north of the city limits, to the areas of Forestville, Barton's Creek, and House Creek Townships, where tobacco farms were abundant.

He courted a girl named Delilah Evans. Delilah, who went by Lila, or sometimes Lillie, was born in House Creek Township about 1842. She was the daughter of Timothy and Sally Evans. Her great-grandfather was Reuben Evans, a private in the North Carolina Line of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.[4]

On April 8, 1861, Lucius and Lila were married in Raleigh. Once married, Lila moved into the house on New Bern Avenue with Lucius and his mother and stepfather.

By the beginning of April 1861, seven states had already seceded from the Union, specifically, South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Just four days after Lucius and Lila were

[4] United States Senate. The Pension Roll of 1835.4 vols. 1968 Reprint, with index. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992.

married, Fort Sumter was attacked by Confederate forces, which marked the beginning of the American Civil War.

On April 17, Virginia voted to join the secessionist states, and Arkansas did the same on May 6. On May 20, North Carolina followed suit, voting to secede. Tennessee became the 11th and final state to join the Confederacy on June 8, 1861.[5]

[5] "War Declared: States Secede from the Union!" *www.nps.gov*

CHAPTER ONE

From enlistment through Gettysburg.

The Civil War officially came to Raleigh when, in March 1862, a new infantry regiment was raised at Camp Mangum. This new regiment would include men and boys from Wake, Nash, Franklin, Granville, and Alamance counties.[6] In Raleigh, a Lieutenant E. H. Ray recruited Lucius on March 15, 1862, to be a private in Captain Norwood's E Company of the brand new 47th North Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the Army of the Department of North Carolina. Lt. Ray described Lucius as a Wake County farmer who was 5'–6" tall.

After a short stay at Camp Mangum, during which time it was drilled incessantly, the 47th was camped between New Bern and Kinston, where several weeks were spent guarding outposts and marching to nearby points where attacks were threatened, never escaping the daily drilling, and being taught the duties of a soldier by the never-tiring General J. G. Martin. It was here the men went through the sick

[6] National Park Service, Civil War, Battle Unit Details, 47th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry. *www.nps.gov*

period consequent upon the change from civilian to military life. The men suffered from measles, mumps, malarial fevers, and a plethora of other ailments. Very few escaped some sort of sickness and quite a few died.[7]

The predominant desire was to join in the fighting around Richmond, where units of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia were constantly engaged. The men of the 47th felt unlucky in that regard. In July, the regiment was called upon to march north one hundred seventy miles to Drewry's Bluff in Virginia. The position was key to the defense of the Confederate capital and the 47th was needed to help build fortifications there. While at Drewry's Bluff, drilling continued from morning until night. After three weeks, the regiment was sent to Petersburg for more guard duty.[8]

On October 27, 1862, Lucius was sent to the Episcopal Church Hospital in Williamsburg, fifty miles east of Petersburg, with a case of dyspepsia (acute indigestion). He

[7] Thorp, p. 85.
[8] Ibid., p.86.

was kept for ten days and returned to duty on November 5.[9]

Shortly before Christmas, the regiment began a march of well over a hundred miles to the Blackwater region of Virginia, to assist Brigadier-General Pryor's Florida Brigade.[10] Every day, the 47th marched thirty miles. Footbridges were built ahead of the column to maximize efficiency, but the roads were wet and muddy, making the march especially arduous. John Thorp, a captain in the 47th, wrote, "As we had been perfected in drilling and tactics by Martin, we were now Romanized by Pryor."[11]

A letter addressed to Mrs. Lucius Griffis was delivered to the Raleigh post office on December 22. On Christmas Eve, the *Raleigh Register* included her in a list of persons who had mail waiting for them at the post office.

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[9] Lucius Griffis, NARA, Washington, DC, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of North Carolina*, Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461.

[10] The walking distance (by modern roads) from Goldsboro, North Carolina, to Franklin, Virginia, measures about 125 miles; from Goldsboro to Zuni, Virginia, measures about 140 miles—per Google Maps.

[11] Thorp, p. 87.

There was a two-cent postage due on the letter.[12] This was almost certainly a letter from Lucius. Soldiers such as Lucius who were (as far as we know) illiterate, would find a literate tentmate or company clerk to dictate their letters to. Privates could send letters by writing "Soldier's letter" on the envelope and having it signed by an officer. The recipient would then pay the postage. If Lucius had sent the letter from his camp to Raleigh, the postage would typically have been ten cents. However, if a courier or a fellow soldier returned to Raleigh and dropped it at the post office for Delilah to pick up, a two-cent drop fee would apply.[13]

Colonel Rogers resigned on January 5, 1863, to become Attorney-General of the State of North Carolina, and Lieutenant-Colonel George H. Faribault was promoted to Colonel in command of the 47th. In January, the 47th, 11th, 26th, 44th, and 52nd North Carolina Infantry Regiments became the brigade of General James Johnston Pettigrew, which then returned to eastern North Carolina. The

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[12] *The Raleigh Register*, Raleigh, North Carolina, Wednesday, December 24, 1862, p. 4.

[13] Civil War Philatelic Society.

brigade marched to Rocky Mount, Magnolia, and Goldsboro, as they were threatened.[14]

For ten months, Lucius had seen nothing but the army—drilling, marching, cold, wet. While he should have been aware of the consequences, the urge to leave the ranks and go home, even if it was just for a short time, must have been overwhelming. It was likely while Lucius was encamped at either Rocky Mount or Goldsboro (both of which were roughly 45–50 miles from home) that he decided to desert the army. He wasn't alone. Soldiers were deserting in alarming numbers, mostly because they'd had enough of the army and they were in close proximity to their homes.

Statewide, there was a continual effort to round up those who were AWOL. Bounties were offered for the capture of any deserters. In Raleigh, the *Daily State Journal* repeatedly ran the following notice: "A reward of thirty dollars will be paid for the arrest and safe delivery of every deserter in the Confederate States Army, at this post, or fifteen dollars for the arrest and safe confinement of any deserter,

[14] Thorp, p. 87.

in any jail of the different counties, so they can be secured by the military authorities."[15]

In Raleigh, General G. W. Smith, in concert with Zebulon Vance, Governor of the State of North Carolina, gave notice "to all deserters and soldiers absent from their command without proper authority, that if they will return by the 10th of February, they shall go unpunished, but if they fail to return by said time, they will be tried by court martial and receive a deserter's reward." The proclamation was printed repeatedly in the *North Carolina Standard* in the months of January and February.

After several weeks out of the ranks, Lucius returned to his company. It's almost a certainty that the advertised amnesty had a role in his decision to return when he did. As the urge to desert was so powerful, the thought of the inevitable return must have been all the more nagging. Lucius probably knew that some men had been imprisoned or even executed for desertion, and that he was being offered clemency in return for a prompt return to duty.

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[15] From the office of the Adjutant Quartermaster at the Confederate States Military Prison at Salisbury, NC. Proclamation first issued October 29, 1862.

This is likely what compelled him to return before the February 10 deadline.

On February 3, the editors of the *Standard* printed: "We learn that an absurd report is in circulation that deserters or absentees who are returning to their companies under the call of General Smith, are being punished by whipping. This report is totally untrue. General Smith and Governor Vance will sacredly perform their promise in this respect. Let every absentee return by the 10th of this month. The past will be forgiven and forgotten, if those who return are henceforth true to duty."[16]

Contrary to the *Standard's* refutation, Lucius, upon his return, was arrested and court-martialed for desertion and sentenced to whipping. They sent him to the C.S.A. prison in Salisbury for execution of the sentence. The remarks on his muster card for January and February 1863 are as follows: "Court martialed for desertion, sentenced to be whipped, sent to government fort for the war: executed." [17]

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[16] *The North Carolina Standard,* Raleigh, North Carolina, Tuesday, February 3, 1863. p. 3.

[17] Lucius Griffis, NARA, Washington, DC, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of*

Captain Norwood, or the officer or NCO that filled out the company muster roll seemed to imply that Lucius would remain at Salisbury for the duration of the war. This was not the case. After the whipping was carried out, Lucius was returned to his company, which was at that time in the vicinity of New Bern, which had been captured and held by Union forces for the past twelve months.[18]

About the middle of March, Pettigrew, in the early dawn hours, drove back Union pickets and passed one of the blockhouses protecting New Bern, but the brigade was shelled by a gunboat anchored in the Neuse River. Pettigrew, being unable to reply with cannon or cross the water with his infantry, withdrew his brigade in such masterly manner that not a man was lost, though the retreat was a long way over an open level field. Soon after, the 47th went to Greenville, where they crossed the Tar River by canoe. In doing so,

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North Carolina, Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461.

[18] Branch, Paul Jr., "Confederate Expeditions Against New Bern," *www.ncpedia.org* (2006).

they were shelled by Union gunboats again; the 47th lost one man killed and several wounded.[19]

By March 1863, Lucius had been a soldier for a year. In that time, he marched all over North Carolina and Virginia, and he slept outdoors more often than not. He knew fatigue. For a year, his life consisted of setting up camp, drilling, breaking down camp, marching, skirmishing. He tasted freedom as a deserter and experienced corporal punishment upon his return. One thing he had yet to experience was facing the enemy in a real battle.

At the start of May 1863, to the satisfaction of everyone, Pettigrew's Brigade was transferred to Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The brigade was assigned to Heth's Division of A. P. Hill's 3rd Corps. The following list illustrates Lucius's chain of command, from May 1863 through the end of the war.[20]

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[19] Thorp, pp. 87–88.

[20] Thorp, p. 88.

- Lucius Griffis, private of E Company, commanded by Captain John Norwood
- of the 47th Regiment North Carolina Infantry, commanded by Colonel George Faribault
- of Pettigrew's / Kirkland's / McRae's Brigade, commanded by
  1. Brigadier-General J. Johnston Pettigrew
  2. Brigadier-General William W. Kirkland
  3. Brigadier-General William McRae
- of Heth's Division, commanded by Major-General Henry Heth
- of A. P. Hill's 3rd Corps, commanded by Lieutenant-General Ambrose P. Hill
- of the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by General Robert E. Lee.

Lee was preparing to wage a major offensive north of the Mason-Dixon line, which would be the largest of the war. For Lucius, that meant the start of another long march. Pettigrew's men marched from North Carolina to Hanover Junction (Doswell), Virginia. From there, they continued northward to Fredericksburg, Culpeper, and Winchester. They then marched to Shepherdstown (West Virginia), where they crossed the Potomac River into Maryland.

Once in Maryland, Pettigrew issued strict orders that the citizens of Maryland and their property would not be interfered with. As the brigade passed through Hagerstown, the Carolina boys were amazed at what seemed to be such an opulent city, but the well-disciplined troops adhered to their orders and minded their manners.[21]

Hill's corps crossed the Mason-Dixon line, about six miles north of Hagerstown, into Pennsylvania. They probably camped for the night at or near the small town of Greencastle. On June 29, the corps continued their march north to the town of Chambersburg, where they turned east on the Chambersburg Pike and followed that to a spot near Cashtown, where they set up camp for the night. Intelligence, although later proven inaccurate, had reached Hill's corps that a cache of shoes was being warehoused in the town of Gettysburg, only a nine-mile march from their camp.

On the morning of June 30, General Heth dispatched Pettigrew's Brigade on a reconnoitering mission to Gettysburg, with the

[21] Thorp, p. 88.

intention of procuring as many pairs of shoes as they could for their men who were literally barefoot by that time. The brigade marched east on Chambersburg Pike, with the 47th in the lead, the 52nd right behind them, and the 11th and 26th Regiments bringing up the rear. When the brigade reached a point a few miles west of Gettysburg, a man in civilian clothes on a farm horse rode up to the fence that lined Chambersburg Pike. He asked who was in charge and then rode to the head of the column, which came to a halt as the man spoke with Colonel Faribault. A moment later, the colonel gave the order: "About face! Quick-time! March!" As the column turned about, several long-range shots were fired at it from both sides of the road. Faribault's decisive action saved the brigade from ambush; they returned to camp at Cashtown, sans supplies.[22]

On the morning of July 1, Heth was still intent on procuring the cache of shoes and other supplies at Gettysburg. Preferring to err on the side of caution, he planned to send his entire division, as opposed to the single brigade

[22] Sources for the events of June 29–30: Reardon-Vossler, pp. 16–17; Rogers, pp. 103–104; Thorp, pp. 88–89; US War Department, Series I, Volume 27, Pt. II, p. 637.

that attempted that same mission the previous day. Beginning at about 5:00 a.m., Heth's brigades assembled on Chambersburg Pike and began marching eastward toward Gettysburg. Pettigrew's was the third of four brigades in the marching column. The division also had a battalion of artillery attached, commanded by Colonel Pegram.

As the column neared Gettysburg, it became engaged in a brief skirmish before resuming its march. After another mile, the column was subjected to a severe cannonading from batteries ahead. Heth deployed his division, but Lucius was spared from the battle that ensued, as Pettigrew's Brigade was placed in reserve, behind the artillery, which was positioned across a piece of high ground called Herr's Ridge. From the safety of the ridge, Lucius witnessed the carnage ahead, and by noon, the field was quiet again. For Lucius, every confrontation with the enemy up to this point had been a mere minor skirmish, where one party or the other fled the field before the combatants became fully engaged.

That changed this day at Gettysburg. Heth reformed his division in the afternoon and marched toward the town, deploying it in lines

of battle. Lucius's regiment was subjected to severe shelling from Union artillery. One exploding shell aimed at the regiment killed three men and knocked down an entire company from its concussion. Unfazed, the 47th continued its advance through a wheatfield, delivering a steady rain of Minié balls. They closed in on the first line of Union defenses, and after a desperate struggle, the line yielded, and the second line was met and quickly broken to pieces.

A captain from one of the companies said of the 47th, "All were yelling and pressing forward through the growing wheat, breast-high, toward a body of the enemy in sight, but beyond the range of our guns. Suddenly, a third line of the enemy arose forty yards in front, as if by magic, and leveled their shining line of gun barrels on the wheat heads. Though taken by surprise, the roar of our guns sounded along our whole line. We had caught the drop on them. The earth just seemed to open and take in that line which five minutes ago was so perfect." Heth's division was relieved that

afternoon and returned to its reserve position upon the ridge.[23]

On July 2, the second day of the battle, Lucius remained at camp on Herr's Ridge and did not participate in the fight. Instead, the 47th rested, cleaned their guns, and tended to their wounded.[24]

On the morning of July 3, the third day of the battle, General Lee assembled an assault force of 13,000 men to charge the center of the Union line. The force consisted of the divisions of Generals Heth, Pender, and Pickett. At about 9:00 a.m., Heth's division moved up and into a line of battle about twenty-five yards behind their artillery, which positioned itself upon high ground called Seminary Ridge. They were about three-quarters of a mile opposite the Union line, which was stretched across the next ridge east, called Cemetery Ridge.

For several hours, Lucius and his comrades bided their time on Seminary Ridge, waiting for further orders. At about one o'clock in the afternoon, the line of artillery in front of Lucius

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[23] Sources for the events of July 1: Reardon-Vossler, pp. 19–46; Rogers, pp. 105–107; Thorp, pp. 89–90; US War Department, Series I, Volume 27, Pt. II, pp. 637–639.

[24] Reardon-Vossler, p. 107.

opened up and an exchange between the big guns of the two sides erupted. The cannonading remained constant for about two hours before finally quieting down again at about three o'clock. At that time, Faribault called the 47th to attention to await instruction to move out.

When the 47th began their advance in what became known as Pickett's Charge, Lucius had nearly a mile to traverse, mostly across open fields. Resistance from Union artillery opened up on the regiment from the time they were barely a hundred yards into their march. The barrage steadily grew worse, ripping holes in the line, which were quickly filled by the well-trained and highly disciplined men. Union skirmishers fell back to their line and the Confederate advance was ordered to the double-quick.

The Union line across Cemetery Ridge was fortified with a preexisting stone wall, much like the Confederates had famously used to their advantage at Fredericksburg. As the Confederate line grew nearer, Union artillery began firing double-canister rounds point-blank into the onrushing Confederates with great effect. Union soldiers, hundreds at a time,

arose from behind the stone wall and fired sheets of Minié balls into the dwindling ranks of attackers. No one from the 47th ever reached the wall.

Captain John Cooke of the 80th New York later described the 47th's advance as follows: "From the forest in front appeared a long brown line of the enemy's infantry. In poetry and romance the Confederate uniform is gray. In actual service it was a butternut brown, and on those fellows who faced us at short range was, owing to their long campaign, as dirty, disreputable, and unromantic as can well be imagined. They exhibited no more of 'the pomp and circumstance of glorious war' than so many railroad section hands. But they could shoot all right and they stood out there in line in the open field and poured in a rapid fire of musketry. They gave us no time to criticize their appearance."

The 47th's Lieutenant Rogers, who was shot in the leg during the charge, said, "When I arose, the remnant of our once fine regiment was reduced to a mere handful of brave men, still going forward from thirty to as close up as ten steps to the rock wall. Seeing this, and having recovered from my fall, and my leg not

seeming to be badly hurt, I made a rush to join the set of brave men nearest the enemy. Our colors fell with our brave color-bearer not ten steps from the rock wall. I heard our brave Lieutenant-Colonel Graves give the order for the handful of brave men to lie down, hoping thus to hold his position until reinforcements should come, but none came. The largest number of those who got out of that charge were those who had been slightly wounded before they got too close to the breastworks to fall back, and those who were wounded early enough in the charge to be carried back by our own men." The survivors of the failed charge retreated to the trees behind the line of artillery on Seminary Ridge. As they bivouacked there for the night, more survivors came crawling back to camp.[25]

Lucius's cousin, George Griffis, a corporal with the 53rd North Carolina, was also at Gettysburg. Well before dawn, on the third day of the battle, long before Pickett's Charge took place, there was intense fighting on Culp's Hill. George's regiment was defending the hill after

[25] Sources for the events of July 3: Cook, p. 326; Hall, pp.84–85; Reardon-Vossler, pp. 46–57; Rogers, pp. 107–109; Thorp, pp. 90–92; US War Department., Ser. I, Vol. 27, Pt. II, pp. 308–377.

it had been taken by Confederate forces the night before. The Union fought tooth and nail to retake the hill that morning, in a battle that lasted for seven hours. Heavy casualties accumulated on both sides, and George was one of them.[26]

George, wounded to the point of being unable to get off the hill when the Confederate forces ultimately retreated, was captured by Federal soldiers. He was treated for his wounds and sent to Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River. George didn't survive the war. He died at Fort Delaware of erysipelas nine months after being captured.[27] George was buried at the Finn's Point National Cemetery, in Pennsville Township, New Jersey.[28] His name appears on a monument in the cemetery that commemorates the 2,436

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[26] US War Department, Series I, Volume 27, Part II, pp. 564–571.

[27] G W Griffiths, Corporal, Co. D. 53 NC Inf. Reg., died of erysipelas at Ft. Delaware, Delaware, April 20, 1864. National Archives at Washington DC; Washington, DC. USA; War Department Collection of Confederate Records; NARA film publicaton #:: M598; Record Group: War Department Collection of Confederate Records; Record Group Number: 109.

[28] G W Griffis, 20 Apr 1864, Finn's Point National Cemetery, Section Cm Site 856. National Cemetery Administration; U.S. Veterans' Gravesites.

prisoners of war who died at Fort Delaware during the war.[29]

According to one source, the 47th brought five hundred sixty-seven men into battle at Gettysburg and suffered over thirty-five percent casualties, or roughly two hundred men.[30] The official report lists twenty-one killed and one hundred forty wounded.[31] The remaining losses—roughly thirty-five to forty men—likely represent those captured or missing in action.

After Gettysburg, the 47th moved to Funkstown, Maryland, just below Hagerstown, where they camped for a short time. On July 14, the army crossed the Potomac into West Virginia at Falling Waters. Pettigrew's Brigade was given the honors of being the rear guard, covering the army as it crossed the river. During the crossing, General Pettigrew and his staff were at rest by their horses when a squad of drunken Union cavalry charged. Pettigrew

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[29] George Washinton Griffis (1832–1864) was the grandson of Allen Griffis—son of Laban Griffis and his third wife, Sarah Flowers. George was the administrator of his father's estate in 1855. To Lucius, George was a first cousin, once removed.

[30] Civil War Battle Unit Details, 47th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry. *www.nps.gov*.

[31] US War Department, Series I, Volume 27, Part II, p. 333.

quickly mounted his horse, and as he drew his pistol, he was shot in the stomach. The general fell from his horse and the fight continued around him for another twenty minutes or so. The 47th fell back to the river's edge, giving the men as much time as possible to get across their pontoon bridge. Pettigrew died from his wound within the next couple of days. The brigade had suffered such heavy losses among its field officers at Gettysburg that the next officer in line to take command of the brigade was a major from the 26th Regiment.[32]

The 47th moved to Bunker Hill, where it rested for a few days before making a long march across the Blue Ridge Mountains, finally coming to rest at Orange Court House, Virginia. While there, the regiment recuperated rapidly by the return of those who had been wounded and a good number of fresh recruits from home.[33]

[32] Rogers, pp. 109–110; Thorp, p. 92.
[33] Thorp, p. 92.

Chapter Two

From Gettysburg through the surrender of Raleigh.

On September 7, the command of Pettigrew's Brigade was given to recently-promoted Brigadier-General William Kirkland, and became thereafter known as Kirkland's Brigade.[34]

From Orange Court House, Heth's division was ordered north. On the night of October 13, the division camped near Warrenton, Virginia. The division moved from camp at 5.30 a.m. on the 14th. After passing through New Baltimore, Heth was directed to take a right-hand road, which proved to be a cross-road leading to Bristoe Station, via Greenwich. Just before reaching Greenwich, some twenty stragglers of the Federal Third Corps were captured.

When within a mile and a half of Bristoe Station, Heth was directed by General Hill to form three brigades in line of battle perpendicular to the road on which they advanced. Cooke's brigade (leading) was

[34] Branch, Paul Jr., "Kirkland, William Whedbee" *www.ncpedia.org* (1988).

formed on the right of the road, its left resting on the road. Kirkland was put in position on the left of the road, his right resting on the road and forming a continuous line with Cooke. Walker was directed to form on Kirkland's left. Davis's brigade was held in reserve in the road.

Kirkland had not quite completed the formation of his line, when orders were received from Hill to push on with the two brigades then in line (Cooke's and Kirkland's), as the Federals were retreating rapidly and that expedition was necessary. Walker was directed to form on Kirkland's left, if possible, as Kirkland moved forward.

The order was given to advance. Union troops were discovered about three-quarters of a mile in front of Kirkland's left. A few shots from one of Poague's batteries threw them into much confusion, and all that were in sight retreated in disorder across Broad Run. On seeing this, Hill directed Heth to cross Broad Run and attack. Before they got started, information was received that a heavy column of the Federals had appeared on Heth's right. Heth asked Hill whether the movement to attack should continue. Hill told Heth to delay the attack, but ten minutes later, changed his

mind and directed Heth to move forward. Walker had not been able to form line of battle on Kirkland's left. Cooke and Kirkland's brigades began the march, and the skirmishers soon became engaged.

Marching parallel to the railroad, the Federals were concealed from view by hills and woods. On seeing Heth's advance, they formed in line behind the railroad embankment. Behind the embankment was a line of hills, which gave the Federals a favorable position for artillery. The railroad cut and embankment gave them perfect protection for their infantry.

Kirkland's Brigade struck the Federals in the railroad cut near Broad Run. The Union line was driven back to its second line of defense. In pressing forward, Kirkland's men were exposed to an enfilading fire from their right, in addition to a severe fire from a battery on the north side of Broad Run. Kirkland was compelled to fall back. A number of his men, unwilling to expose themselves, remained in the railroad cut and were captured.

Cooke's Brigade charged up to within forty yards of the railroad embankment, but was driven back, being exposed not only to a heavy fire from the enemy behind the railroad

embankment, but also to a fire on its right flank. The Union batteries, during the advance of Cooke and Kirkland, completely swept the field over which the advance was made. As soon as Cooke's brigade gave way, Heth ordered Davis to form his brigade on Cooke's right, thus protecting Cooke from a flank movement.

Walker briefly crossed Broad Run while attempting to align with Kirkland's left, but withdrew when Kirkland was forced back and spent the remainder of the fight supporting artillery. Davis and Walker were never fully engaged. After the repulse, Heth reformed his line and advanced to within five hundred yards of the railroad, declining a second assault against the Federals' strong defensive position. He later noted that Cooke's and Kirkland's men fought well despite facing a larger force entrenched behind the railroad embankment with strong artillery support.[35]

Thorp called Hill's decision to attack a "gross blunder." The corps suffered heavily at Bristoe. Thorp said the regiment fell back to

[35] The account of the Battle of Bristoe Station is based solely on the report of General Heth, dated October 24, 1863. [US War Department, Series I, Volume 29, part I, pp. 430–432.]

the point from which they began the charge, and that they had no opportunity to bring the wounded off the field.[36] Among the wounded was Private Lucius Griffis. He was hit in the left calf with a piece of canister shell from Union artillery, but was able to remove himself from the field. Lucius's wound was seemingly relatively minor at the time. As was typical for a wound of this nature, the shard of metal in Lucius's leg was removed, and the wound was cleaned and dressed. He was returned to duty the following day.[37]

At Bristoe Station, Kirkland's Brigade suffered just over six hundred casualties, including sixty killed, two hundred sixty-five wounded, and two hundred seventy-seven missing. Following the battle, Hill's corps moved to the Rapidan River, in the vicinity of Orange, Virginia, where it remained encamped until spring. While there, the wounded

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[36] Thorp, pp. 92, 93.

[37] Lucius Griffis, NARA, Washington, DC, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of North Carolina*, Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461.

convalesced and new recruits from home arrived.[38]

By April of 1864, Ulysses Grant had taken command of all Union forces, and he was determined to pursue and destroy Lee's army. Before the beginning of May, both armies were on the move again.

On May 5, the 47th North Carolina led the Army of Northern Virginia into what became the Battle of the Wilderness. Advancing as skirmishers in front of the line, the regiment first struck Union cavalry and steadily drove them back for several miles. By midmorning, near Mine Run, the skirmish line encountered increasing resistance, and company after company was fed forward until the entire regiment was engaged. In this way, the 47th brought on the general action.

When the Union main line was reached, the 47th shifted positions along the road and held its ground for roughly three hours under almost constant attack. The fighting was exceptionally close and severe; the dense undergrowth offered little protection as bullets stripped saplings bare. By midafternoon the

[38] Thorp, p. 93.

Wilderness erupted into a general battle, the opposing lines so near that neither side could advance. As evening fell, the firing gradually subsided. The men didn't withdraw but slept on the field where they had fought.

At dawn on May 6, the Union army renewed the assault. Disordered and exhausted, Hill's men—including the 47th—resisted stubbornly until about ten o'clock, when Longstreet's corps arrived and counterattacked, driving the Federals back over the contested ground.[39]

At the Wilderness, the 47th lost heavily in killed and wounded. The Confederate wounded were evacuated and Lucius was among them. He was taken by wagon train about fifty-five miles to the C.S.A. General Hospital in Charlottesville, Virginia, with a severe swelling in his left calf. In Charlottesville, the doctor diagnosed Lucius with an aneurysm by anastomosis, which was essentially an infection in his leg resulting from the treatment he received after being wounded at Bristoe. The following day, Lucius was

[39] Sources for the events of May 5–6, 1864: Rogers, pp. 110–111; Thorp, p. 94

transferred to a hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia, about another seventy miles from Charlottesville, for further treatment.[40]

While Lucius was in the hospital, his regiment was prominent in the battle at Wait's Shop on May 10, and it was present at Spotsylvania on May 12, where it supported an artillery battalion but otherwise had very little involvement in the fighting that day.[41] In Lynchburg, Lucius's leg was treated and he was released after a short period of convalescence. He was returned to his company in late May, which by that time had moved east of Richmond.[42] It's likely that Lucius traveled the distance by train, as it was more than one hundred twenty miles from Lynchburg to Richmond.

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[40] Lucius Griffis, NARA, Washington, DC, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of North Carolina*, Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461.

[41] Thorp, pp. 94–95.

[42] Lucius Griffis, NARA, Washington, DC, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of North Carolina*, Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461.

On June 1, Kirkland's and Cooke's brigades repelled a determined assault behind their breastworks near Mechanicsville. The 47th stood in fine form as the Federals advanced across an open field. The men were ordered to hold their fire until a signal gun sounded, then to fire by file. When the cannon gave the signal, the regiment unleashed a steady volley at less than fifty yards. The Federals, expecting to take the position with the bayonet, withheld their fire and were quickly broken and driven back with heavy loss, while Confederate casualties were slight. Sharpshooters pursued the retreating Federals for nearly two miles.

While the sharpshooters pressed forward, the main body of the brigades moved toward Cold Harbor and became engaged again that evening. In this action, the Confederates drove the Union from strong breastworks, but General Kirkland was wounded once more and left the field, after which General William MacRae assumed command of the brigade. The 47th suffered a number of killed and wounded in the fighting.

Heth's division held the ground gained and fortified its position. The next day the Federals massed in the woods before them and attacked

repeatedly, often advancing within forty to sixty yards. Hidden by the trees, they were heard more than seen, and the Confederates fired toward the sound of their movements. At one point shells from a Confederate battery fell dangerously close to Heth's own line, prompting him to send word to cease firing. Losses mounted through the long day until nightfall finally ended the struggle. After dark, details gathered equipment, and under cover of darkness, the men withdrew silently through the only open route.[43]

This action became known as the Battle of Bethesda Church. The Confederate brigades suffered very few casualties in the attack, after which Lee sent a dispatch to the Secretary of War to compliment the two brigades. As a result, Lucius and the men of the 47th received the *Roll of Honor* award, which was given for courage and good conduct on the field of battle.[44]

From Cold Harbor, Heth's division moved about three miles west to a place called Gaines' Mill, where they crossed the Chickahominy

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[43] Thorp, pp. 95–96

[44] C.S.A., Adjutant and Inspector-General's Office. "General orders number 131." U.S. National Library of Medicine.

River and marched to Hatcher's Run, a distance of about thirty-five miles.[45] There, they dug in and made that place their base of operations for the time being.

At Hatcher's Run, Lucius was experiencing convulsions from a high fever. On June 16, he was sent to the Confederate General Hospital in Danville, Virginia, which sits just above the North Carolina border. There he was diagnosed with pneumonia, and on the following day, he was transferred to the Pettigrew General Hospital No. 13 in Raleigh, where they also treated him for an ulcer under his arm. At this point, Lucius was in rough shape. Besides the pneumonia and the large lump under his arm, there was also the damage done to his left leg at Bristoe Station, which would hinder him for the rest of his life. He was treated for two days at Pettigrew General Hospital, then was sent home to convalesce on June 20, 1864.[46]

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[45] Thorp, p. 96

[46] Lucius Griffis, NARA, Washington, DC, *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of North Carolina*, Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461

Lucius, now twenty-four years old, was able to return to his wife, mother, and step-father on New Bern Avenue. He was in poor health and convalescing at home, but he was still a private in the Confederate service, and could be called upon to return to duty at any time. A company muster card for the months of September and October 1864 stated that Lucius was absent due to his being sick.[47]

Convalescing at home was not uncommon during the war. As the armies would typically be encamped for the winter months and resume activities in the spring, Lucius was likely expecting to return to duty at that time. The war, however, decided not to wait for his return.

In late March 1865, Grant's revitalized army attacked and broke through Confederate defenses south of Petersburg, Virginia, thereby severing Confederate communications and supply lines between there and Richmond. Union forces scored victories in the battles at Five Forks on April 1 and in the Third Battle of Petersburg on April 2—victories that essentially destroyed any remaining hopes Lee

[47] Ibid.

had of further defending Richmond. Lee ordered an evacuation of all Confederate troops from the cities of Petersburg and Richmond. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his staff also fled from Richmond on April 3.[48]

Grant harassed Lee, cut off his supplies and communication lines, and blocked roads of escape. On April 6, Union troops delivered a devastating blow at the Battle of Sailor's Creek, where nearly eight thousand Confederates were killed or captured and many more wounded. Lee gathered what was left of his army and marched west about thirty-five miles to Appomattox, Virginia, where he found himself cornered, heavily outnumbered, and nearly depleted of supplies and ammunition. On April 9, with no good options available, Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to Grant at Appomattox Court House.[49]

The news of Lee's surrender reached Raleigh on April 10. Raleigh knew it would have to fend for itself with the inevitable arrival

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[48] Grant, Volume 2, pp. 430–444; Hess, pp. 271–279.

[49] Salmon, p.480; Encyclopedia Britannica, "Battle of Appomattox Court House"; U.S. National Park Service, "Grant at Appomattox Court House."

of Federal troops. In the meantime, a meeting of the city commissioners was called and a committee was appointed, consisting of several of those commissioners, a handful of other citizens, and the city's mayor, W. H. Harrison. The committee's job was to meet the advance of the Union army outside of the city limits and offer them a formal surrender of the city.

At daybreak on April 13, the committee procured a carriage and proceeded out on the Holleman Road to a point where it was crossed by the city's perimeter fortifications. A man named Richardson rode next to the driver and carried a staff with a white handkerchief affixed to suffice as a flag of truce. The morning was gloomy, with ominous black clouds and a steady rain. The carriage reached its destination and sat in wait in the pouring rain.

A body of mounted soldiers was seen approaching at about 8:00 a.m. They came to a halt to assess the situation in front of them. Mr. Richardson then placed the flag of truce atop the breastworks. A few minutes later, two men on horses approached the committee and asked the men about their intentions. A man named Rayner spoke for the group. He said they were "a joint delegation of city officials

and citizens, who, in the absence of any military organizations, desired to surrender the city and ask protection for its noncombatants and public and private property."

The officer and his escort rode back to their group and a short time later, General Judson Kilpatrick and his entourage returned to the committee. Mr. Rayner stepped forward and said, "My name, sir, is Rayner, Kenneth Rayner, and I have been selected to formally surrender the city of Raleigh to General Sherman's army." Kilpatrick was cold and indifferent. He said he would protect the lives and property of all who yielded "obedience to law and order, but should pursue with relentless fury all traitors in armed opposition to the integrity of the Union." The committee then returned to the city.

A short time later, Kilpatrick's cavalry came riding up from the south, and made their way up Fayetteville Street towards the capitol. The procession halted momentarily and someone yelled, "Hurrah for the Southern Confederacy!" Then, a single mounted Confederate officer rode out in the middle of Fayetteville Street and fired one round from his pistol in the direction of the Union cavalrymen.

He tried to flee after firing the one round, but he was caught by a detachment of Kilpatrick's men and carried back to Capitol Square.

The man was a Texan and a straggler from General Hampton's cavalry. The man claimed he didn't know about the surrender and that is why he fired his pistol. It was conveyed to Kilpatrick that the man had been robbing and looting during the night and earlier that morning. Kilpatrick said, "Your action today has endangered the lives of many of the citizens of this town. You deserve death, sir." His next words were "Orderly, take this man out, where no ladies can see him, and hang him!" The man was taken down an auxiliary road, off the end of Fayetteville Street, to a grove of trees beyond the Governor's mansion. There, they hung him from a tree and then buried his body under it.

Right after the Texan was hanged, a Confederate officer came riding into town and was immediately surrounded and ordered to surrender. He instead reached for his pistol, but was safely apprehended before any shots were fired. He too was carried before Kilpatrick. His name was Lieutenant James and he explained that he was attached to the city's

provost marshal's office and that he'd been on leave, visiting a friend out of town, and was just then returning.

He claimed he didn't know about the surrender and that he thought a skirmish was taking place. Many bystanders witnessed the pleas of both the Texan and this man. In both cases, they objected to a death sentence. In the case of this man, they won out and he was instead held at the jail. It's likely that Lucius, Anderson, Caroline, and Lila were witnesses to these events, as practically the entire town had gathered to watch the Union cavalry division parading into town.

The following night, President Lincoln was shot in the back of the head by the actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, while he and Mrs. Lincoln were attending a comedy called *Our American Cousin*. The President was carried to a house across the street where he was closely watched until he died a little after 7:00 on the morning of April 15. News of the assassination reached Raleigh later that day and it spread through town quickly. On that same day, Major-General John Logan arrived in Raleigh, from nearby Morrisville, with his XV Corps. Rumors began

to circulate as to the intentions of the Union soldiers present.

Moses Amis, an attorney and one of the city's prominent citizens, stated, "Crowds of soldiers were to be seen standing at the corners of the different streets, loud in their expressions of indignation, and open in their declarations to have vengeance for what they termed the "rebel murder." It was a terrible time. Many of the citizens petitioned for extra guards. Hundreds of people sat up during the entire night, expecting mob violence at any moment.

About 9:00 p.m., additional mayhem was created by the alarm of "Fire!" Many thought that the work of destruction had commenced. Hundreds of citizens repaired to the scene of the flames, but the cause of excitement was happily discovered to be the accidental burning of a deserted workshop in the remote southeastern section of the city. The remaining portion of the night passed off in a comparatively quiet manner.

Mr. Amis said that the city would have been sacked that night by rowdy Union soldiers, had it not been for Logan. A mob of drunken soldiers under Logan's command, encamped

by the insane asylum on the edge of town, were making their way into the city with intentions of burning it. Logan mounted his horse, met the angry mob, and "dissuaded them from their vile purpose." [50]

A proclamation issued on April 16 ordered all Confederate soldiers within the city to report on the following day to Capitol Square as prisoners of war, where they were to sign an Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America and receive a parole until officially exchanged. Lucius reported as ordered, and was made to put his mark on a crude hand-scribbled oath. It was signed and dated by witnesses John Small and Colonel Millard Warner, parole masters. By endorsing this document, Lucius was allowed to return home as a civilian. The war was officially over for him. A transcription of the document follows.

[50] Amis, pp. 140–146.

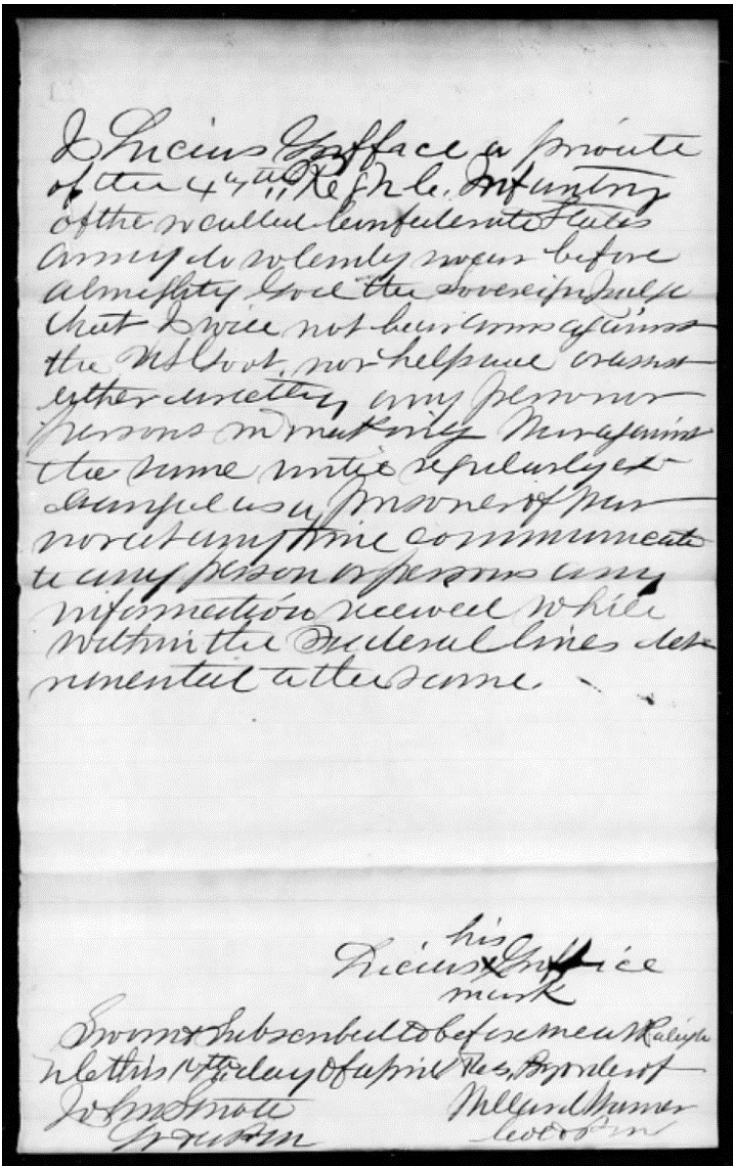
I, Lucius Griffice, a private of the 47th Reg. NC Infantry of the so-called Confederate States Army, do solemnly swear before Almighty God the Sovereign Ruler, that I will not bear arms against the U.S. Gov't, nor help, aid or assist either (directly or) indirectly, any person or persons, in making war against the same, until regularly exchanged as a prisoner of war; nor at any time communicate to any person or persons, any information received while within the Federal lines, detrimental to the same.

his
Lucius x Griffice
mark

Sworn and subscribed to before me at Raleigh, on this 17th day of April, 1865. By order of:

John Small
W & P M

Willard Warner
Col. & P M



I Lucius Surface a private of Co. 4th Regt. N.C. Infantry of the so called Confederate States army do solemnly swear before almighty God the Sovereign Judge that I will not bear arms against the United States nor render aid or comfort to any person or persons in hostility thereto nor will I any time communicate to any person or persons any information received while within the Federal lines clandestinely or otherwise.

his
Lucius X Surface
mark

Sworn & subscribed to before me at Raleigh this 17th day of April 1865

John Scott
Provost Marshal

Milford Warner
Lieut & A.D.C.

PREVIOUS PAGE: The actual hand-written document signed by Lucius.

SOURCE OF IMAGE: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of North Carolina; Catalog Name: Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Confederate Organizations, Compiled 1903–1927, Documenting the Period 1861–1865; Catalog Number: 586957; Record Group Number: 109; Source Reference Number: 1667.jp2; Series Number: M270; Roll: 461

Conclusion

A biographical sketch of Lucius Griffis after the war.

Anderson Nicholson died in 1865, and the house on New Bern Avenue became Caroline's through a trust that Anderson had set up back in August of 1854. The trust gave Caroline sole possession of the house in the event of Anderson's death.[51] To provide the family with income, Lucius worked locally as a farmhand and Lila earned money with her sewing skills.

On February 20, 1868, Lila gave birth to a son, likely at home on New Bern Avenue. Lucius and Lila named him Frank Howard Griffis.

Caroline died a little more than a year later, in March of 1869. She was about 51 years old. This seemed to mark the beginning of a difficult period for Lucius, Lila, and Frank.

Lucius and Lila's marriage was deteriorating. Lucius left home and went to the area of Forestville, in Barton's Creek Township, where he lived and worked farming

[51] Anderson Nicholson, 1865, Wills and Estate Papers, Wake County, North Carolina. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

tobacco. Lila continued to live in the house on New Bern Avenue. In addition to the money she made from sewing, she took in a boarder named Mary Pew, a twenty-year-old girl who was also a seamstress. Despite the two forms of income, Lila—and likely Mary too—resorted to prostitution to make ends meet.

Lucius had a stepsister named Catherine. In the spring of 1870, she and her husband Henry Levy filed a lawsuit against Lucius and Lila for possession of the house. The Levys claimed that they were the rightful owners of the house, since Caroline was now dead and Catherine was Anderson's heir at law. Lucius contested, claiming the house belonged to him because his mother owned it outright and he was her sole heir at law.[52]

A judge ruled that the house did fully and solely belong to Caroline, but since she died leaving no written instruction regarding the disposal of the house, it reverted to the estate of Anderson Nicholson at her decease. Catherine Levy, being Anderson's heir at law, was awarded the house. Lucius appealed the

[52] Anderson Nicholson. Wills and Estate Papers, Wake County, North Carolina. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

decision, but in January of 1871, it was upheld by a judge who issued an order that the deed to the house and lot be auctioned on the courthouse steps at a later date.[53] The proceeds of the sale were to be divided between Catherine and her siblings, Elizabeth Chadwick and Anderson Nicholson Jr.

Following the court's final decision, Lila and Frank moved to Lenoir Street in the southwest section of the city. Mary Pew likely moved with them to that address.

At the time, Lucius was still living in the area of Forestville. In Raleigh, he failed to appear before a judge on April 4 to answer a charge of larceny; a bench warrant for that failure was served. Lucius was arrested and taken to jail to await a trial by jury. On Monday morning, April 10, while Lucius sat in jail, the house on New Bern Avenue was auctioned on the courthouse steps. The house was awarded to a Mr. William Brown, who offered the highest bid at $880.[54]

The following day, Lucius and a codefendant named Columbus Bridgers were

[53] North Carolina Supreme Court, Levy vs. Griffis, 65 N.C. 236.
[54] From the probate file of Anderson Nicholson 1865.

tried at the Wake County Court and found guilty of larceny. The details of the charges are unknown. The men were sentenced to two years apiece in the penitentiary.[55]

Having a state penitentiary was a new concept in North Carolina in those days. The state didn't have a prison until the establishment of one was mandated by the Reconstruction-era Constitution of 1868. A penitentiary committee was formed in August of that year and a site in southwest Raleigh was ultimately chosen. The twenty-two-acre site had easy access to a railroad line and was adjacent to a stone quarry, which supplied the material necessary to build the facility. With the location chosen, construction of a temporary facility began in late 1869.

The first prisoners were brought there on January 6, 1870. When the temporary facility opened, they had an area of about twelve acres that was enclosed by nearly 3,000 linear feet of pine log stockade, fifteen feet high. There were twenty-four log rooms, each measuring 19 ft. x 19 ft. Twenty of them housed inmates, two

[55] "Wake Superior Court" *Raleigh Daily Telegram*, Wednesday, April 12, 1871, p. 2.

were used as hospital rooms, and two were holding areas. The quarry was enclosed by a wood plank stockade that was ten feet high and topped with a guards' catwalk. The prison also had 850 feet of railroad track, which connected it to the North Carolina Railroad.[56]

When Lucius arrived at the state pen, he was given a medical examination and a new wardrobe, consisting of a "jacket and trousers of heavy gray cloth or warm stuff for winter, and of lighter goods for summer with drawers and undershirt for winter, and two changes of linen each week; two pair socks and stout brogan shoes; a neat light cloth cap, two handkerchiefs—all to be marked with the number of the convict's cell or name." It should also be noted that smoking or use of tobacco in any form was forbidden in the prison, as was the possession or consumption of any alcohol, unless prescribed by the physician.[57]

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[56] Tomberlin.

[57] Rules and By-laws for the Government and Discipline of the North Carolina Penitentiary, During Its Management by the Commission. Rules and By-laws/Prisoners, p. 17, rules 7 and 9. Raleigh, NC. 1869. *www.docsouth.unc.edu/nc/penitent/penitent*

The day after Lucius was admitted to the penitentiary, Lila appeared in court for the charge of keeping a "disorderly house." Arguing on her behalf was a young lawyer named Fabius Busbee, who was successful in getting an acquittal.[58] In June, she was charged again with the same infraction. The *Daily Telegram* reported, "Lila Griffis, a keeper of a house of ill repute in the Western Ward, in that locality denominated 'Hell's Half-Acre,' was complained of for keeping a disorderly house. Warrant was issued."[59]

On the night of Friday, August 11, 1871, Lila was violently attacked and stabbed by a man who engaged her services. *The Weekly Carolina Era* printed, "James St. Sing was before W. H. Harrison, J. P., on Saturday last, for inflicting a wound upon the person of Delila Griffis, in her house, on Friday night. St. Sing is a man advanced in age, and the father of a large family of children. He is now in jail to answer at the Fall Term of Wake Court for

[58] "Wake Superior Court" *Raleigh Daily Telegram*, Tuesday, April 12, 1871, p. 2.
[59] "Mayor's Court," *Raleigh Daily Telegram*, Tuesday, June 27, 1871, p. 3.

this gross violation of the law of the land."[60] The incident was reported in several regional newspapers. *The Wilmington Morning Star* referred to Lila as a "lewd woman," and a New Bern publication called her a "soiled dove."[61]

Lucius's life was pretty well settled into a new routine at this point. For the past six months, a bell rang at 5:00 a.m. (6:00 a.m. in the winter) as a signal for all the prisoners to rise, dress, wash, and make up their beds. After sufficient time for these purposes, the doors were unlocked and the prisoners were counted and marched to receive their rations, and then back to the cells, which were again locked. At 7:00, they began their assigned work, which continued until noon, when they were given a one-hour break for dinner (45 min. in winter), after which they returned to work until 7:00 p.m. (sundown in winter). They then returned to their cells where they had free time until 9:00 p.m. At that time, a signal was given and all

[60] "Local , State and General Items," *The Weekly Era*, Raleigh, North Carolina, Thursday, August 17, 1871, p. 3.

[61] *The Wilmington Morning Star*, Tuesday, August 15, 1871, p. 1. Wilmington, North Carolina; *The New Bern Times*, New Bern, North Carolina, Wednesday, August 16, 1871, p. 1.

prisoners were "required to repair to their beds. No talking, laughing or noise was tolerated."[62]

While the nature of the labor that Lucius performed at the penitentiary is unknown, it should be noted that the chief occupation of the convicts at that time was "quarrier." While Lucius and the other prisoners lived in the temporary log facility, they were put to work mining huge slabs of granite from the adjacent quarry. The granite blocks were used to build the new prison. Believing that the state penitentiary should be self-supporting and that manual labor was beneficial for the prisoners, state officials utilized the readily available and inexpensive inmate work force to construct the permanent buildings, walls, and fences.[63] The magnificent three-story facility, resembling a medieval castle, took fifteen years to complete.

Lucius was pardoned and released from the penitentiary on September 6, 1872—about seven months short of his full two-year

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[62] "Rules and By-laws for the Government and Discipline of the North Carolina Penitentiary, During Its Management by the Commission. Rules and By-laws/Daily Routine," pp. 20–21, rules 1–6. Raleigh, North Carolina, 1869. *docsouth.unc.edu*

[63] Tomberlin.

sentence.[64] Following his release, Lucius split his time between living with Lila and Frank on Lenoir Street and farming tobacco in Granville County.

After moving back and forth between Raleigh and Granville County for several years, Lucius left home again in 1875 or 1876—this time for good. Frank later told his family that when he was seven or eight years old, Lucius left one day and never returned. He remembered only that Lucius left him a bed. Frank never saw him again after that.[65]

In Granville County, Lucius was engaged in the tobacco business with an older man named Lewis Mangum. Lewis was an African American farm laborer with a wife and about six children who lived on a place in Orange County, near Samuel Mangum's farm in Mangum Township. An Oxford newspaper reported in August of 1876, that Mangum & Griffis sold a crop of tobacco at the Parish's Farmers Warehouse in Durham.[66]

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[64] "Local Matter" *The Raleigh News*, Tuesday, September 10, 1872, p. 1.

[65] Author's family records.

[66] *The Torchlight*, Oxford, North Carolina, Tuesday, August 22, 1876, p. 2.

In Oxford, Lucius was out of touch with his family and separated by about forty miles. By 1877, Lila hadn't seen or heard from Lucius in a year or two and she wanted out of the marriage. With no other means of reaching Lucius, she ran a classified notice in a Granville newspaper, stating her intent to obtain a divorce. This was, presumably, so that she could marry a man named James Barrett, who had moved in with her on Lenoir Street as a boarder. No official divorce record has been found, but if Lucius didn't respond to the notice in the paper, Lila may have been granted a divorce on the grounds of abandonment. Regardless, at her mother's home in House Creek Township, under the name Lillie Evans, she and James Barrett were married by a justice of the peace on July 5, 1880.[67]

Lucius eventually returned to the area of New Light Township, about midway between Oxford and Raleigh, where he lived with a woman named Sally Sikes. Lucius and Sally had known each other since before the war. When Lucius was courting Lila back in 1860, Sally and

[67] James Barrett, Wake County, North Carolina, Register of Deeds, Marriage Register, White Male, 1839–1967, pp. 9.

her mother lived next door to Lila's family. Lucius and Sally, who was thirteen years his senior, procured a marriage license on June 21, 1890. They were married three days later at her house, by Justice of the Peace William Lassiter. Among the witnesses present was J. C. Ray—likely a relative, possibly the brother of the William Ray that Lucius worked for at Barton's Creek.

Lucius and Sally's marriage ended in divorce at some point in the 1890s, but exactly when remains unknown. Lucius's war wound grew more debilitating with time, and by the late 1890s, he resorted to moving into the Parish Grove poor house and farm. Parish Grove was a county facility established in the 1820s to house indigent residents. It was located about six miles north of downtown Raleigh, on approximately six hundred fifty acres in House Creek Township. The site included two hundred cultivated acres for farming, a public gristmill on Mine Creek, and facilities for the carding, spinning, and weaving of cotton from

which the residents produced their own clothing.[68]

When Lucius went there in 1899, the facility comprised nine two-room frame buildings, each 16 ft. x 36 ft., heated by open fireplaces or stoves, and lit by oil lamps. The farm produced corn, cotton, oats, and clover, among other staple crops.[69]

On June 5, 1901, Lucius applied for a soldier's disability pension from the State of North Carolina, citing his wound received at Bristoe Station. He had a friend named William Dancey, who, as a sworn witness, stated that he knew it to be true that Lucius was indeed wounded at the Battle of Bristoe Station. Dancey also appears as a private in E Company on the 47th's regimental roster. The application asks for a detailed description of the disability, to which Lucius's physician stated, "Applicant was wounded by a piece of shell in Battle of Bristoe Station 1863, in the leg, which incapacitates him for labor and he is unable to

[68] "Forgotten No Longer" by Thomas Goldsmith, staff writer, *The News and Observer*, Sunday July 19, 2009. Section A, pp. 1, 11.
[69] Ibid.

support himself. Has been in County Home two years."[70]

On Thursday, July 7, 1901, on page eight of the *North Carolinian,* was published the replies to everyone from Wake County who submitted applications for Civil War disability pensions the previous month. The list of approved applications was long, and the list of applications denied was almost equal in length. The applicants represented a wide range of North Carolina infantry, artillery and cavalry units, plus a few from the Navy. There were thirty-eight soldiers from the 47th that were still living and requesting a disability pension. Nine were from Lucius's E Company. Of the thirty-eight applicants from the 47th, sixteen were approved and twenty-two were denied. Of the men from E Company, five were approved and four were not. Unfortunately for Lucius, he appeared in the list of those denied.[71]

In the early 1900s, a young woman came from Warren County to reside at Parish Grove. The woman, Martha Headen, was the daughter

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[70] Soldier's Application for Pension, under the Act of March 2nd, 1901. Lucius Griffis, age 60, Company E 47th N.C. State Troops.
[71] "Wake Pension List" *The North Carolinian*, Raleigh, North Carolina, Thursday, July 11, 1901, p. 8.

of a shoemaker named Pulaski Headen and his wife Theresa Elizabeth 'Betty' Daniel. She was born in June 1872 in Granville County.

In 1900, Martha and Betty were residing at the Warren County Home for the Aged and Infirm in Warrenton.[72] At some point after June of that year but before autumn 1905, Martha came to Parish Grove on her own, leaving her mother behind in Warrenton. At Parish Grove, Lucius and Martha became friends, and on November 18, 1905, they applied for and received a marriage license from Wake County. The following day, Lucius and Martha were married at Parish Grove by a Baptist minister. The ceremony was officially witnessed by three friends—Samuel Harris, Jessie Carter, and Buck Fowler, the owner of a neighboring farm.[73] Lucius was sixty-six years old and being married for a third time. Martha was thirty-three and a first-time bride.

In 1910, a monument was erected by the Gettysburg National Military Park Commission to honor Pettigrew's Brigade. It's unlikely that Lucius ever saw it.

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[72] U.S. Census, 1900. Warrenton, North Carolina; E.D. 103, p. 2.

[73] Griffis, Lucius. Marriage Register, Wake County, North Carolina, White Male, G Section, p. 75.

On September 20, Lucius, Martha, and eighty-seven other inmates were transferred from Parish Grove to the newly-completed Wake County Home for the Aged and Infirm.[74] Life at the Wake County Home may not have been a life of luxury, but for the first time in their lives, Lucius and Martha enjoyed indoor plumbing, electric lights, hot baths, and meals served in a dining room.

In 1917, Lucius's health was beginning to deteriorate. He went to see a doctor on March 1, who began treating him for bronchitis—another condition which hindered him for the rest of his life. By early 1918, Lucius was quite ill. In the spring, his bronchitis worsened into pneumonia, leading to hospitalization. Lucius died at the county hospital of bronchial pneumonia on March 27, 1918. He was seventy-eight years old. His death certificate said there were no other contributing causes.[75]

On March 28, Martha and friends gathered to pay their last respects in a small plain chapel, located far in the back of the county home

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[74] *The Randolph Bulletin*, Asheboro, North Carolina, Wednesday, September 22, 1915, p. 2.

[75] Lucius Griffith, March 27, 1918. North Carolina State Archives; Raleigh, North Carolina; *North Carolina Death Certificates*.

property, beyond the farming and gardening areas. Lucius was buried in an unmarked grave, in the cemetery located next to the chapel.

In Raleigh, Martha survived Lucius for nearly six years before she died of a pulmonary thrombosis on January 4, 1924. Jonathan Ball, then superintendent of the home, acted as the informant to the coroner for the information on her death certificate. Mr. Ball didn't know the names of Martha's parents, nor did he know her correct age. He recorded her age as fifty-five, but she was actually just fifty-one. He did correctly state that she was from Warren County and the widow of Lucius Griffis.[76] As the graves at the county home cemetery were poorly marked—if at all—it's unlikely that Martha was buried next to Lucius. Since they died almost six years apart, Martha was probably buried in a different part of the yard.

[76] Mrs. Martha Griffice, January 24, 1924. North Carolina State Archives; Raleigh, North Carolina; *North Carolina Death Certificates*.

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